

Borough of Morpeth



ANNUAL

- REPORT -

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1948

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948.

.....

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Morpeth.

.....

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,—

I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

On 5th July, 1948, the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation and, as far as your Council was concerned, the effect was to transfer certain of your former powers and responsibilities to other authorities. The immunisation of school children and all other duties in connection with the provision of ambulance services became the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council. The South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which your Council was a constituent authority, ceased to exist, and provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of cases of infectious disease became the responsibility of the Newcastle - on - Tyne Regional Hospital Board which acts as agent for the Minister of Health.

Payment of Fees to general practitioners for notification of infectious disease is still the responsibility of your Council in the first instance, but all money expended is recoverable from the County Council provided the County Medical Officer has received a copy of each notification.

These are the main changes affecting the Authority. Under the new Act, the County Council resolved to set up a new scheme of area administration, and for the purpose of this scheme the County was divided into eight areas. The Morpeth Borough was included with the Urban Districts of Ashington and Newbiggin and the Rural District of Morpeth in the Central Area.

A Central Area Health Sub-Committee made up of representatives of the County Council and of each of the District Councils, plus two co-opted members, was established. Bedlingtonshire, which had formerly been a constituent authority in the Number 2 Medical Area, joined with the Borough of Blyth to form the East Area.

The County Council, with the concurrence of the District Councils, appointed your Medical Officer of Health to be Executive Medical Officer in the Central Area. I continued to be Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire, also, until the end of the year, but, in January, 1949, Dr. A. Donaldson took up duty as Executive Medical Officer for the East Area and Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire, which then ceased to be included in the Number 2 Medical Area and ceased to be a member of the Joint Committee (Medical Officer of Health).

The Area Sub-Committee, subject to the authority of the County Health Committee, became responsible for the management of the Ambulance Service and the Domestic Health Service, measures relating to the Prevention of Illness and the Care and After-Care of Sick Persons, Vaccination and Immunisation, measures relating to the Prevention of Infectious Disease, Health Education and the management of Health Centres and other premises vested in the Local Health Authority and used for health services.

In connection with the vital statistics of the Borough, all the figures are satisfactory with the exception of the Infantile Mortality Rate, which increased from 29.7 per 1,000 live births in 1947 to 43.6 in 1948. The "Still" Birth Rate, however, was less than one quarter of that for the previous year, and there were no maternal deaths. The Birth Rate increased and the Death Rate decreased slightly.

Notifications of Tuberculosis were only half those for 1947, but the number of deaths increased by one.

No serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease occurred, and although Measles became epidemic no deaths resulted.

The Housing Problem still remains acute, but the completion of 89 permanent houses in 1948 represents a substantial improvement in the position.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and my thanks for the assistance afforded me by the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE,

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

C. B. McGregor,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

SEPTEMBER, 1949.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Officers of the Public Health Department of the Local Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH... CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR	... .. F. K. PERKINS, M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.I.
ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR (MEAT)	... .. J. C. TWEEDY, M.S.I.A. (Retired 30/9/48).
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR (MEAT)	... .. J. G. SIMPSON, M.S.I.A. (Commenced 1/10/48).
OFFICES OF THE M.O.H....	... .. 146, Station Road, ASHINGTON.
TELEPHONE ...	... .. ASHINGTON 2287.
OFFICES OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR	... .. 36, Bridge Street, MORPETH.
TELEPHONE ...	... .. MORPETH 36.

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	2,213
Registrar - General's Estimate of Resident Population mid - 1948	9,420
Rateable Value	£58,143
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate... ..	£231 - 9 - 9
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948)	2,641

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate... ..	193	104	89
Illegitimate... ..	13	8	5
	206	112	94
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population			21.86.
STILL BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate... ..	1	1	—
Illegitimate... ..	1	1	—
	2	2	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births			9.6.
DEATHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	98	53	45
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population... ..			10.4.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar - General's Short List).			

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births).
No. 29 : Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 : Other material Causes	—	—

DEATH RATE of INFANTS Under 1 Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 live Births	43.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births... ..	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1

THE REGISTRAR - GENERAL SUPPLIES the FOLLOWING TABLE :

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1948.

	Male.	Female.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever... ..	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria... ..	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Resp. System... ..	2	2
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myel and Polio-enceph.	—	—
12. Acute Inf. enceph.	—	—
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	—	1
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum... ..	5	1
15. Cancer of Breast	—	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	4	5
17. Diabetes	1	—
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	5	4
19. Heart Diseases	14	12
20. Other Diseases of circ. system... ..	2	1
21. Bronchitis	—	2
22. Pneumonia... ..	1	2
23. Other resp. diseases	1	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum... ..	1	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—
26. Appendicitis... ..	—	—
27. Other digve. diseases... ..	1	1
28. Nephritis	3	3
29. Puer. and post abort. sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes... ..	—	—
31. Premature birth	2	2
32. Con. mal. birth injury, infant dis.	1	1
33. Suicide... ..	—	—
34. Road traffic accident	2	—
35. Other violent causes	—	—
36. All other causes... ..	5	4
	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 45
Deaths of Infants under one year :—	Male.	Female.
Legitimate... ..	5	4
Illegitimate... ..	—	—
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table sets out the chief causes of death in the area :—

Cause.	Number.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the heart	26	26.53
Cancer	17	17.34
Diseases of the circulatory system	12	12.24
Diseases of early infancy and congenital malformations under 1 year	9	9.18
Nephritis	6	6.12
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	5	5.1
Tuberculosis (all forms)... ..	5	5.1
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	4	4.08

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1948.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9...12 mths.	Total Under 1 Year
Prematurity	2	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Convulsions... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury... ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro - Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	3	1	1	—	5	1	1	2	—	9

The following Table shows the comparative Mortality Rate during the past 10 years :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1
Deaths of Infants under one year	7	9	10	9	7	8	8	3	6	9
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	44.58	60.21	72.5	62.9	52.63	46.24	58.98	16.39	29.7	43.6

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities: There are now provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service. For the first ten months of the year the work was still carried out at the Newburn Laboratory, but in November, 1948, the staff moved to premises at the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below :—

Specimen sent by	Specimen.	Pos.	Neg.
M. O. H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	—	3
General Practitioners	— do. —	—	57
C. C. T. O.	Sputa for Tubercle	—	38
General Practitioners	— do. —	13	96
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haem Strep	23	35
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincent's Angina	—	5
General Practitioners	Enteric results	—	3
General Practitioners	Faeces for Dysentery	1	3
General Practitioners	Miscellaneous	—	1

Ambulance Services: These remained unchanged until 5th July, 1948, when under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the ambulances were automatically transferred to the ownership of the Northumberland County Council, which became the authority responsible for ambulance services.

Number of cases carried up to 5th July	381
Number of Miles travelled	11,027

Until 31/3/49 the Corporation continued to run the service as agents for the County Council.

Number of cases carried 5th July to 31st December, 1948	467
Number of Miles travelled	11,472

Nursing in the Home:

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northumberland County Nursing Association ceased to exist on 5th July, 1948, and the County Council became the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing services.

Treatment Centres and Clinics:

The Northumberland County Council is the Welfare Authority for the Borough, and sessions are held as follows:—

Infant Welfare Centre: The Willows, every Monday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic: The Willows, every Thursday, one week—all day.
next week,—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Orthopaedic Clinic: First & third Friday morning in the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dental Clinic: 4 p.m. every Monday afternoon.

Hospitals, — Public and Voluntary:

(1). The Cottage Hospital (incorporating the Margaret and John Oliver Memorial) ceased on 5th July, 1948, to be a Voluntary Hospital and became the property and responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board acting on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

STAFF: 1 Matron, 2 sisters, 1 assistant nurse, 5 probationer nurses, 3 trained nurses, 1 part-time nurse.

Accommodation, for 23, disposed as follows: 1 ward for 10 males, 1 ward for 6 females, the remainder accommodated in other 5 rooms.

(2). St. George's Hospital, Morpeth.

(3). Hospital for Infectious Diseases: 14 beds. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this building passed to the ownership of the Regional Hospital Board and the Ministry of Health on the 5th July, and the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board ceased to exist.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Corporation possesses its own water undertaking, and the supply is augmented by water purchased from the Tynemouth Corporation. The water from both sources is chlorinated, that supplied by Tynemouth Corporation being treated by the vendors before it enters the district. The average annual rainfall in the Borough over a period of 30 years is 25.40 inches. During the year it was 26.88 inches. The water supply to the Borough has been adequate for all demands made upon it. The pressure is sufficient and the quality satisfactory.

The average daily quantity of water consumed from the Borough undertaking was approximately
113,804 gallons.

The average quantity from Tynemouth Corporation was approximately 175,543 gallons.

Total average consumption 289,347 gallons.

This latter quantity was sufficient.

The application to the Tynemouth Corporation for a bulk supply of water to the Northern area of the Borough is still under consideration.

There still remain in the Borough 74 houses which are served by stand-pipes or other outside taps and will require to be dealt with as soon as the supply situation improves. Certain other properties served by outside taps are of the "clearance" type and will be dealt with accordingly.

Apart from these, all houses in the Borough have a water supply laid on.

The following main was laid in Hollon Street:—205 yards 3" water main.

Water Samples.

Samples of water from the town supply were taken and submitted for examination as follows :—

Date.	Place of Collection.	Probable No. of Coli - Aerogenes Organisms per 1,000 ML. of Water.
27/10/48 — 1.	36, Bridge Street	Nil.
27/10/48 — 2.	Standpipe, McGill's Yard	Nil.
27/10/48 — 3.	Chantry Wells... ..	Nil.
27/10/48 — 4.	Staithes Lane	Nil.

Sample No. 1 was taken for chemical analysis, and the following report was made by the Public Analyst :—

“ Date received 27/10/48. Sample marked ‘1/W/48.’ Town's Mains (Chlorinated), 9-30 a.m. October 27th, 1948. Collected from draw-off Tap in Surveyor's Office.”

Chemical Results.	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solids dried at 180° C.	13.0
Chlorine as Chlorides	0.71
Free ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid ammonia	0.011
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.10
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.)	1.300
Total hardness	7.3
Permanent hardness	1.5
Temporary hardness	5.8
Lead and copper	None
Iron... ..	None
Appearance and colour... ..	Deep orange brown and clear.
Smell and taste	Satisfactory.
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory.
P. H. Value	7.1.

Report:—

“ This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity ; microscopically it is seen to contain very little sediment, consisting mostly of mineral matter with one or two diatoms, and the water is clear but highly coloured.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

(Sgd.) W. GORDON CAREY.”

A regular check-up for residual chlorine was also maintained, the orthotoluidine test being the one applied.

All water mains were flushed regularly.

The two filter beds were periodically emptied and cleansed.

The water runways on the collection grounds were cleansed and cleared of all obstruction and improved.

The two engines at the Gubeon Pump House and the single engine at Tranwell were again overhauled, decarbonised and repaired.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following Table indicates the number and nature of the Inspections carried out during the year :—

	No of Inspections during Year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No. Outstanding from previous Year.	TOTAL	No. Remedied after letter or Interview.	In progress or being dealt with.
HOUSING.						
Structural Defects (summary of Sheet II.). ...	31	20	—	20	20	—
Defective Food Store	15	8	—	8	8	—
Dampness... ..	39	19	—	19	19	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances... ..	28	12	—	12	11	1
WATER SUPPLY.						
Insufficient... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE.						
Insufficient... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective... ..	35	19	—	19	19	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.						
Insufficient... ..	21	12	—	12	12	—
Defective... ..	28	17	—	17	17	—
Shops, Food Stores, &c.... ..	76	2	—	2	2	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	80	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter - houses... ..	120	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, &c.... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Work - places... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	3	3	—	3	3	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	13	13	—	13	13	—
Ashpits improperly used	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances... ..	2	2	—	2	2	—
Petrol Stores	—	—	—	—	—	—
	499	127	—	127	126	1

The following Table provides a summary of work affected :—

Sanitary Conveniences:	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Privies Abolished... ..	—	—	—	—
.. .. Repaired... ..	—	—	—	—
Privy Ashpits Abolished	—	—	—	—
.. .. Roofed or Repaired	—	—	—	—
Pail - Closets Abolished	—	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	160	—	—	160
Water Closets Repaired	29	—	—	29
Sanitary Bins provided... ..	89	—	—	89
Sanitary Bins Renewed	13	—	—	13
Drainage:				
New Drains Constructed	11	—	—	11
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed... ..	8	—	—	8
Additional Gullies Provided... ..	—	—	—	—
Old Gullies Replaced	—	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	—	—	—	—
Scullery Waste Pipes Repaired	12	—	—	12
Scullery Waste Pipes Trapped	12	—	—	12
Yards Repaired or Reconstructed... ..	15	—	—	15
Water Supply:				
Sources Closed or Discontinued Nil.	No. of Houses affected... .. Nil.			
New Service provided 89.	No. of Houses affected 89.			

Notices Served under Public Health and Housing Acts, 1936.

The Number of Notices served during the year was 115, and work done was as follows :—

Ball Valves Repaired 2	Brickwork Repaired 4
Baths Repaired 1	Bedroom Fireplaces Repaired 1
Chimney Stacks Repaired 3	Ceilings Repaired... .. 10
Cement Floors Repaired 3	Dampness Remedied 19
Domestic Boilers Repaired 1	Doors Repaired 17
Eavesgutters & Fallpipes Repaired or Renewed 46	Floor Repaired (Wood)... .. 7
Fractured Walls Repaired and Stabilized ... 3	Handrails Repaired... .. 1
Manhole Covers Renewed 3	Mante's Repaired... .. 2
Poultry Enclosures Repaired 1	Pavings Repaired... .. 2
Ranges Repaired 9	Soil Pipes Repaired 1
Urinals Improved 1	Valley Gutters Repaired or Renewed... 13
Walls Re - pointed 34	Walls Re - Plastered 15
Walls and Surfaces Cleansed 8	Windows Repaired 39
Wash - up Sinks Repaired 4	Washing Coppers Repaired... .. 5
Water Pipes Repaired... .. 6	Roofs Repaired 33

Smoke Abatement:

Two observations were made in connection with a Factory Chimney which failed to consume its own smoke and gave off such quantities as to give rise to a nuisance.

Appropriate informal action resulted in the abatement of the nuisance, and conversion to an oil - burning unit.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

- (1). Number of Council Houses found to be infested during the year was 3.
- (2). Number of Private Houses found to be infested during the year was 3.
- (3). The method employed for disinfecting houses is by means of Zaldecide as a spray.
- (4). The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses is by (3) above.
- (5). Disinfestation has been carried out by, or under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919:

Infestation Order, 1943.

Emphasis continues to be laid upon the necessity of extermination of rodents, and due attention has been focussed on this matter throughout the year. The practical work of destruction was carried out by a Council employee employed full-time.

The sewerage system was given treatment in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food and lately of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The river banks, refuse tips and sewerage works, business and residential premises were also attended to. The following gives some statistics in relation to this work :—

Number of Sewer Manholes prebaited	230
.. .. Prebaited laid	262
.. .. Prebaited taken... ..	13
.. .. Manholes poison - baited	44
.. .. Poison bait takes	27
.. .. Business and Residential Properties baited and trapped	121

Refuse Tips and other surface infestations were treated by means of gassing, employing Cymag Powder applied by a hand-operated pump. The results of this treatment were highly satisfactory.

Number of burrow - holes gassed	306
.. .. bodies recovered	53

Total number of visits made during the year	375
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Other infestations of rodents involving agricultural lands which lie outside the operative powers of the Council are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries ((Infestation Branch), which takes the necessary steps to destroy them.

Drainage and Sewerage:

The 12" and 9" syphons under the River Wansbeck near Bennett's Walk and Dogger Bank were overhauled and cleaned periodically.

At the Sewerage Works further improvements were made to the Sludge Lagoons by levelling and the laying of ashes. More ground was used for downward filtration in order to relieve the percolating filters and humus tanks.

Both the Gas Engines at the Pumping Station were overhauled and cleaned.

There were periodical inspections for Rat Infestations, and destruction was carried out where found necessary.

The following Sewers were laid in Hollon Street : — 142 yards 6" diameter sewer ; 138 yards 4" diameter surface water sewer.

Rivers and Streams:

No action, except as above indicated, was taken.

Closet Accommodation:

There were 160 Water Closets added to the system during the year.

Public Cleansing:

Public Cleansing is operated by direct labour. Refuse collection is carried out daily and is deposited in an old sand pit at Shadfen, some 1½ miles out of the town proper. This tip is in an area of the Morpeth Rural District and is situated 200 yards from the Choppington Road, and there are no buildings within 400 yards.

This tip has been extended and will probably last one year. Arrangements have been made for another tip to take all refuse when the above is filled.

The vehicles used for refuse collection are :—

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ford Tipper. | 3. Ford Lorry. |
| 2. Bantam Karrier. | 4. Horse and Cart (Part - time). |

Rivers Pollution: No action.

Camping Sites:

There are no Civilian Sites within the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools:

There is none within the district.

Schools:

There are five Schools, including the New Senior School at Mitford Road for elementary school children, and two schools for secondary education, all having water supply from the Corporation mains and modern sanitary conveniences. The New Senior Schools have H. & C. showers.

Factories Act:

There are in the district 38 Factories without mechanical power and 33 with mechanical power.

The following Table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1948 :—

There are no outworkers in the district.

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES. (1)	M/c line No.	No. on Register.	NUMBER OF			M/c line No.
			Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.	
(1). Premises in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	1	38	20	—	—	1
(2). Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	2	33	31	—	—	2
(3). Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	3	1	9	—	—	3
Total...		72	60	—	—	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	M/c line No.	Found Remedied.		Referred		No. of Cases in which prosecu- tions were instit'd.	M/c line No.
				To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)...	4	2	2	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (s.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable Temperature (s.3)...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (s.4) ...	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (s.6)...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total ...	60	3	3	—	—	—	60

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The following is a Tabular Statement for the Year 1948. Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
By Local Authority ..	89 (permanent)	—	89
By other bodies or persons ...	—	—	—

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING - HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) Total Number of Dwelling - houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	197
(2) Number of Dwelling - houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	3
(3) Number of Dwelling - houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub - head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	107

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of Defective Dwelling - houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ...	107
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 of the HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of Dwelling - houses in respect of which " Notices " were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of Dwelling - houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(A) By Owners...	3
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners	3

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of Dwelling - houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling - houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(A) By Owners ...	
(B) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 & 12 OF HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... | Nil. |

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... | 2 |
| (4) NUMBER of HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED as DWELLINGS and NOT included above ... | Nil. |

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply:

There are four cow-keepers in the Borough. Two of these are on the list of Licences for Production of Tuberculin-tested Milk issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1946.

There are eight milk purveyors in the Borough, including the four above-mentioned producers.

Two of the purveyors supply Tuberculin-Tested Certified Milk, while another supplies Pasteurised Milk.

The cowsheds have been regularly visited and the dairy premises inspected. Notices for lime-washing and general cleansing were sent out and these complied with.

Sampling of Milk.

FOR CLEANLINESS. Thirty-three samples of milk were taken which had been produced outside the Borough and were sent to the County Laboratory for testing. Of these, 19 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. The Health Departments of the areas wherein this milk was produced were duly notified for investigation to be made.

Eight samples of milk were taken which had been produced in the Borough, four of which did not pass the Methylene Blue Test. Appropriate steps were taken in these cases and a remedy effected.

One clean bottle was sampled for sterility which, according to standards laid down, was "fairly satisfactory." The requisite steps were taken to improve the production of "satisfactory" bottles.

One sample of milk was taken for Tuberculin Test, the result of which was inconclusive due to the inoculated animal dying.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

COW-KEEPERS	4	INSPECTIONS MADE	115
DAIRIES & MILK PURVEYORS	8	NOTICES SERVED	1

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted during the year to the work of Meat Inspection at the Government-Controlled Slaughter-house, Staithes Lane. Therein is carried out all the slaughtering of food animals for the Borough of Morpeth and the Rural District of Morpeth.

It is of the utmost importance in these times of shortages that as much meat as possible should be available to the public, but it is more important still that such meat should be entirely free from disease or other unsound conditions before being released for human consumption.

All animals slaughtered are inspected, and no carcase or organs allowed to leave the premises without examination. This work inevitably entails the working of long hours, often including week-ends and Bank Holidays. This is mainly due to the number of "casualty" animals sent in from farms and stock-breeders in an attempt to "save their lives."

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year 1948 are set out below :—
The number of inspections made during the year was 313.

Month	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves..	Total.
JANUARY...	59	417	1	11	488
FEBRUARY...	65	292	5	10	372
MARCH...	67	267	1	8	343
APRIL...	76	120	2	11	209
MAY...	61	93	1	5	160
JUNE...	30	183	4	8	225
JULY...	79	189	1	7	276
AUGUST...	183	457	4	10	654
SEPTEMBER...	163	263	3	5	434
OCTOBER...	179	624	4	1	808
NOVEMBER...	174	631	4	4	813
DECEMBER...	79	356	2	6	443
Totals ...	1,215	3,892	32	86	5,225.

CONDEMNATIONS.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Slaughtered ...	1043	172	86	3892	32
Number Inspected...	1043	172	86	3892	32
All diseases except Tuberculosis, whole carcasses ...	33	22	7	86	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	744	40	—	125	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	74.496%	36.05%	8.14%	5.421%	28.125%

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned...	8	13	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	27	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5.465%	23.26%	1.19%	—	6.25%

	Whole Carcases Condemned.	Part Carcases Condemned.	Weight in Stones.
CATTLE ...	76	10	2,188
SHEEP AND LAMBS...	86	4	256
PIGS ...	1	2	18
CALVES ...	8	—	20
Totals ...	171	16	2,482

In addition to the foregoing, the following were also condemned:—

ORGANS.	CATTLE.	SHEEP.	PIGS.	CALVES.
HEARTS	93 lbs.	8 lbs.	—	—
HEADS AND TONGUES... ..	2993 lbs.	868 ..	21 lbs.	62 lbs.
LIVERS	6343 ..	190 ..	6 lbs.	—
LUNGS... ..	1003 ..	— ..	4 lbs.	—
MELTS... ..	10 ..	— ..	— lbs.	—
MESENTERIES... ..	32 ..	5 ..	— lbs.	—
TONGUES... ..	32 ..	— ..	—	—
TRIPES... ..	6409 ..	— ..	8 lbs.	—
UDDERS	1112 ..	— ..	— lbs.	—
PLUCKS	— ..	565 ..	31 lbs.	—
Totals	18,027lbs.	1,636lbs.	70lbs.	62lbs.

Imported beef condemned weighed 39 stones.

The total weight of carcase meat and offal condemned during the year was:—
24 tons, 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 1st.

This was handed to the Ministry of Food for appropriate disposal.

The following foods were also condemned:—

POULTRY	265 lbs.	CHEESE... ..	1½ lbs.
FISH	826 lbs.	BUTTER.....	14 lbs.
FRUIT	54½ lbs.	EGGS	1049
CANNED GOODS... ..	1637 tins.	OTHER FOODS... ..	276¾ lbs.
BACON	54 lbs.	EDIBLE OFFAL	1481½ stones.
CORNED BEEF	321 lbs.		

Number of Visits made in connection with above — 9.

The total weight of food condemned during the year amounted to:—
26 tons, 2cwts., 3qrs., 1¼lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

BAKEHOUSES:

VISITS TO BAKEHOUSES	46	VISITS to ICE - CREAM FACTORIES	5
BAKEHOUSES CLEANSED... ..	1	.. ICE - CREAM RETAILERS	8
.. REPAIRED... ..	2	.. FROZEN FOOD PREMISES	4
.. SOAP and TOWELS		.. LICENSED PREMISES... ..	2
Provided	1	.. BUTCHERS' SHOPS... ..	15
VISITS TO CAFES	19	.. FISH & CHIP PREMISES... ..	24
		.. WET FISH SHOPS	10

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Hospital Accommodation for Cases of Infectious Disease was provided throughout the year at the Isolation Hospital, Ashington.

On 5th July, 1948, this Hospital passed from the authority of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, which on that date ceased to exist, and became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board acting as agent for the Minister of Health.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
DIPHTHERIA... ..	6	3	—
SCARLET FEVER	11	1	—
PNEUMONIA	5	Unknown	2
ERYSIPELAS	16	—	—
MEASLES... ..	110	—	—
WHOOPING COUGH	35	—	—
DYSENTERY	1	—	—
PUERPERAL FEVER	1	—	—
MALARIA... ..	3	—	—

Table Showing Analysis of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

	Und. 1 Yr.	1-2 Yrs.	2-3 Yrs.	3-4 Yrs.	4-5 Yrs.	5-10 Yrs.	10-15 Yrs.	15-20 Yrs.	20-35 Yrs.	35-45 Yrs.	45-65 Yrs.	Over 65	Total
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	6
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	1	—	—	—	—	11
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	1 Age Unknown			—	1	—	7	3	4	—	16
Measles	9	14	13	21	10	40	—	—	2	—	1	—	110
Whooping Cough 3	9	3	3	—	2	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	35
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	1 Age Unknown			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the seven diseases named in the following Table, but in only one instance did a death occur:—

DISEASE.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
SMALLPOX... ..	0	0.0
SCARLET FEVER	0	0.0
ENTERIC FEVER (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)...	0	0.0
DIPHTHERIA	0	0.0
MEASLES	0	0.0
WHOOPING COUGH	0	0.0
ENTERITIS (DIARRHŒA under 2 years) ..	1	0.106

DIPHTHERIA.

The decline in the incidence of Diphtheria continued, only six cases being notified compared with 12 in 1947. Of the six cases, only two occurred in school-children, and neither of them had been immunised. The other four cases occurred in an institution within the Borough, three being inmates and one a member of the staff. No deaths occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

Notified cases of this disease numbered 11, and were thus one fewer than in 1947. All were treated at home and there were no deaths from the disease.

MEASLES.

1948 was again an epidemic year for Measles. There were 110 cases notified, but no deaths occurred.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease showed a slight increase from 27 cases in 1947 to 35 in 1948. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Visits were paid to all the schools in the Borough for the purpose of carrying out immunisation against Diphtheria. Altogether, at the schools, at the Child Welfare Centre and from private doctors, 113 pre-school children and 63 school-children received the full primary course of treatment, and 205 children received a secondary or re-inforcing injection.

It is estimated that at 31.12.48 the immunisation state of the child population was as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised	431	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57.4%
School children immunised... ..	1,205	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99.4%
Total children under 15 years immunised...	1,636	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83.3%

These figures all show a very marked improvement on the figures for the previous year.

From 1st July, 1948, the County Council became the authority responsible for immunisation, and the Borough Council no longer has any obligation in the matter.

NOTIFICATION of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, while the Borough still remains the authority responsible for the payment for notifications of infectious disease, all sums so expended may be recovered from the County Council.

CANCER MORTALITY.

SITE	MALES							FEMALES						
	30—	35—	40—	45—	55—	65—	Total.	30—	35—	40—	45—	55—	65—	Total.
MEDIASTINUM...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
BREAST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
STOMACH...	—	—	1	—	2	2	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
LIVER... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
PANCREAS...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UTERUS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
OVARY... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
PROSTATE...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RECTUM	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL	—	—	1	—	4	1	9	—	1	—	2	3	2	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Resp.	Non.	Resp.		Resp.	Non.	Resp.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 — 5 years...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15 years...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
25 — 35 years...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 45 years...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 — 55 years...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 years...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 65 years ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
				2	2	2	—	2	2	1	—

To the Medical Officer of Health of each
County
Metropolitan Borough
County Borough
Urban District
Rural District

General Register Office
(Statistical Division),
Somerset House,
London, W.C., 2.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1948. VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—				
BIRTHS:—				
Live Births	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS:—				
All Causes	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS:— (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—				
DEATHS:—				
All causes under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—				
Notifications (Corrected) Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.39	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15 — 44
140. Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	9
141. Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147. Puerperal Infections	0.13	
142—146 |		
148—150 | Other Maternal Causes	0.73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) per 1,000 related Births.

(c) In London puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.

J. & J. S. MACKAY, MORPETH.

